

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Farrakhan calls for President Clinton to halt U.N. sanctions on Iraq

BAGHDAD, IRAQ - Minister Louis Farrakhan was recently quoted by President Clinton to go down in history as a "killer of babies" if he doesn't push for a lift of U.N. sanctions on Iraq, Iraq's ambassador to the United States said. Working to keep punishing economic sanctions in place in Iraq to undermine Saddam Hussein has been ongoing.

During a recent meeting between Muslim and Iraqi Christian clergy, Farrakhan said, "I believe it is time for the American administration to sit down with President Hussein to begin a dialogue."

Farrakhan visited Iraq after U.S. inspectors with U.N. weapons teams where Iraq asked that they leave after being accused of them of spying. As part of a Russian-brokered deal, they were allowed to return a week later.

Irvington Mayor criticized for nepotism, responds with accusations of her own

IRVINGTON — Mayor Sara Bost has appealed a \$250 fine by the state ethics panel for appointing her husband to the township planning board. Bost says her accusers have a double-standard, criticizing her for her actions and not former Mayor Steele who hired and appointed family members to posts.

Bost also questioned why Councilman Beasley, who will run against her in the next mayoral race, didn't criticize Steele for appointing his father to a board post and hiring his uncle spouse.

In defense of her husband, Bost said, "Fred is eminently qualified for the job, having served as a councilman for four years. He remains active in Irvington as a black association president and district leader."

Military recognizes black astronaut thirty years after his death

CAPE CANAVERAL, FL — Mayor Robert Lawrence Jr. is being recognized as the first full-fledged black astronaut. The recognition comes thirty years after his death in a Air Force plane crash. The acknowledgment ends a long struggle to have Lawrence's name added to the Astronauts Memorial Foundation's Space Mirror, a monument that honors astronauts killed in the line of duty. Lawrence was killed in an F-104 fighter during a training exercise in 1967 just a few months after being named to the Force's orbiting laboratory program. His son, Tracey Lawrence refused to attend the dedication ceremony because of animosity shown by the board of directors. "They refused to recognize him," he says. "It was really unwanted refusal to recognize him for a period of years."

Former police chief and drug czar elected Mayor of Houston

HOUSTON — Houston voters have elected former Clinton administration drug czar and Democrat Lee Brown as Mayor. A former police chief of Atlanta, Houston and New York City, Brown is the city's first African American mayor.

Following the election, Governor Roy Romo, Democratic National Committee General Chair said, "We would like to congratulate Lee Brown for running a victorious campaign which focused on the democratic principles of expanding opportunity and bringing people together. We would also like to congratulate the voters, who, in electing Lee Brown, have elected a mayor for all of Houston."

Two new bills will help level the employment playing field for women

TRENTON — United States Senator Robert G. Torricelli recently announced his support for two Democratic initiatives to gain equal pay for working women. The announcement comes on the heels of reports showing that women in the United States are paid only 75% of men's salaries.

Under the Fair Pay Act, employers who discriminate on the basis of race, sex and national origin will be forced to give equal pay for work in jobs that are comparable in skill, effort and working conditions. The Paycheck Fairness Act would aid victims of wage discrimination on the basis of sex. "These two bills will guarantee that women receive the compensation they deserve for their vital role in America's work places," Torricelli said.

Lecture on bus ride that helped dismantle segregation

GREENSBORO, NC — James Farmer, founder and once president of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), spoke to an audience here recently about the "Freedom Riders" of 1961 who sought to end segregation in interstate bus travel.

Currently a professor of American History at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, VA, Farmer, 77, was the third in a series of lectures to speak at the newly opened International Civil Rights Center and Museum on the site of a now famous Woolworth's Department Store.

When four Black college students refused to move from "white only seats" in the store's cafeteria, they sparked yet another civil rights protest of note. "The Sit-in Movement" as it was called.

During the lecture, Farmer told how mob violence on the part of white supremacists had caused great physical injury to Freedom Riders in Alabama cities during those demonstrations.

Farmer described how he played "crazy Negro" as he followed closely behind Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth through an angry crowd of white men. The two pushed, pulled and shouted their way through the angry mob.

Farmer reported that in the

church's back room, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., was talking by telephone with U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. Kennedy urged King to convince Farmer to stop the Freedom Riders as a "cooling off" gesture.

Farmer's response was that the rides would continue. "We have been 'cool off' for 350 years. If we 'cool off' any more we will be in a deep freeze."

The Kennedy Administration activated both the Alabama and Mississippi National Guards. The guardsmen joined the Freedom Riders for the last leg of the trip between Montgomery and Jackson, MS.

This was considered by CORE strategists to be dangerous territory for the integrationists. There were

constant rumors of planned bombings. Farmer said that some journalists and photographers left the bus at the Mississippi border in response to the rumors.

Farmer then led the group into the white only restaurant. They were asked to leave by the police. They refused to leave and were arrested.

Farmer told the audience that these arrests were deliberately civil. He surmised that state and regional officials had advised local police to avoid excessive reaction to civil rights demonstrations in several areas.

Farmer's arrest subsequently led to the incarceration of hundreds of other Freedom Riders. None of those arrested would pay the \$500 bail fee. They chose to spend the full 60 day sentence in jail. The bail was raised, after a few days to \$1,500.

Culture, An Untried Force For Africa's Development

By Olu Sarre

DAKAR, Senegal—Think of culture and immediately images of dance and song spring to mind, but intellectuals studying this aspect of life say it is much more.

Culture, they say, is the untried force for the economic development of Africa.

"The increasing value of cultural products such as literary works, art, music, dance and drama, traditional festivals, rituals and ceremonies—as economically saleable commodities and as a foreign exchange earners has become quite evident," says George Hagan, director of the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana, Legon.

He and other ranking policy and decision makers from West and Central Africa discussed this and other cultural dimensions of development in Africa at a recent seminar in Dakar, Senegal,

organized by the United Nations Institute of Development and Economic Planning.

Hagan said the rising tide of cultural tourism, accessibility to world markets of cultural festivals and visual arts by the electronic media has "added value to traditional cultural goods."

"We are saying people must be involved from the word go," he said. People, he added, have aspirations, needs, and moral values. They have leadership styles and these should be used to get "people to understand that the program to be executed is going to have an impact on their lives."

So the questions are whether or not Africa needs a cultural revolution and whether Africa's intellectuals are ready to support this. In the geography, statistics and economics departments subjects are now African centered. This progress has given the university confidence to branch into other cultures.

Commentary

Clinton: Race and Hate

By Asim Muhammad

The fact that President Bill Clinton convened his much-talked about White House Initiative on Race in Akron, Ohio on Dec. 3 is a source of good news and bad news.

The good news is that this meeting was the first in a mostly "white enclave" by any President of the United States, ever!

The bad news is that this meeting was the first in a mostly "white enclave" by any President of the United States, and that it occurred in a climate that has been punctuated by hate crimes against Blacks—a wave of hate crimes, in fact.

While Mr. Clinton deserves credit for his bold initiative to go and to

explore "where no President has gone before," the effort leaves much to be desired. With a one-year term, the initiative cannot possibly get in depth into problems which have taken place over a 442-year period.

The real history of race hatred in America is largely a story of a small band of greedy Whites, stealing the North American land mass from the Indigenous Aboriginal inhabitants; eventually committing genocide against those inhabitants; while kidnapping a nation of Black people from Africa, enslaving them for 310 years as if they were chattel; then lynching, oppressing, and exploiting those Black freed slaves for 130-plus more years after Emancipation.

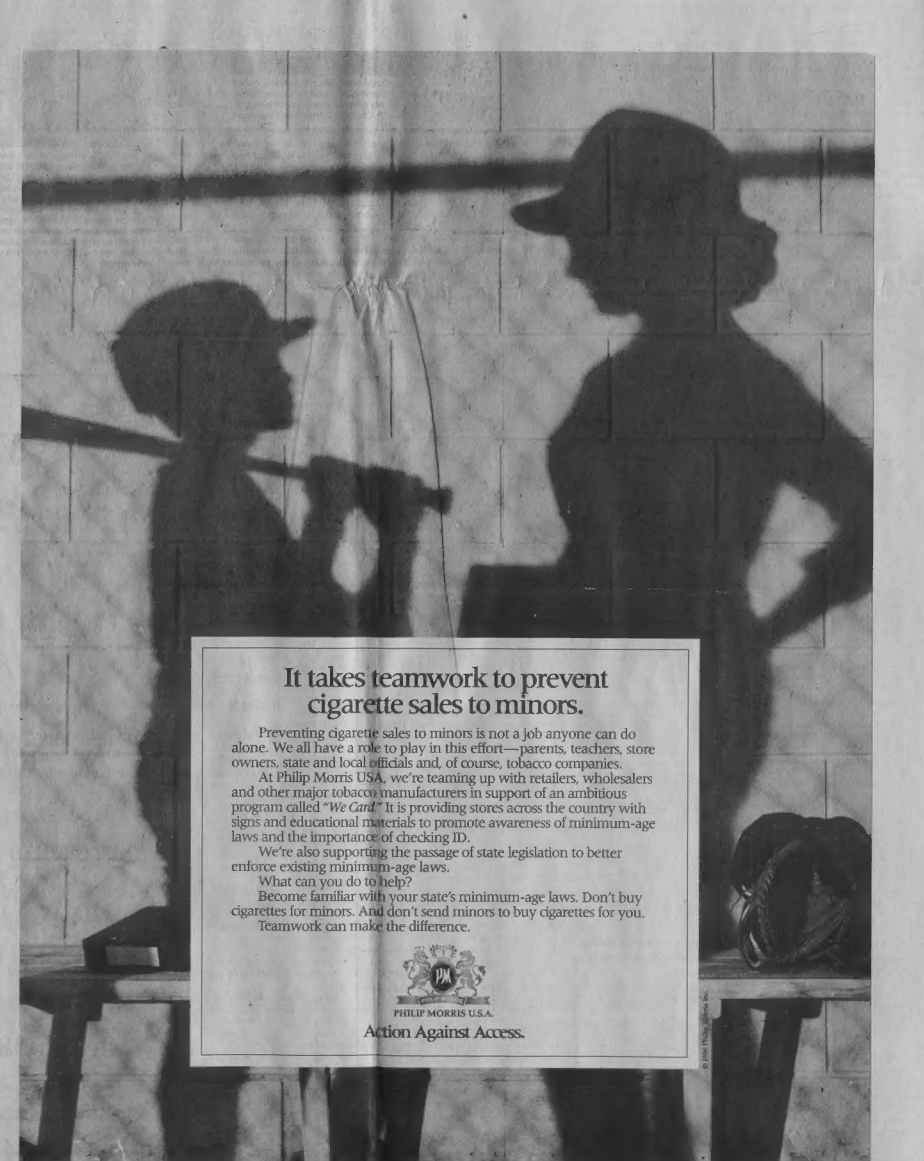
SCLC to host second National annual 'tracking' conference

ATLANTA—The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), along with the Coalition of Alabama's Reforming Education (CARE) and other civil rights advocacy groups, will hold a second national planning summit on the miseducation, or "tracking," of African-American children, at Spelman College, in Atlanta earlier this month.

SCLC National President Joseph Lowery, SCLC General Counsel Rosanne Gregory and other educational experts from around the nation descended on the Spelman campus to continue to outline strategy to counteract the adverse impact of "tracking," or ability grouping, that has caused harm to black school children, in particular in the South. Studies on "tracking" have indicated disproportionate ratios with African-American children which causes low self-esteem and low academic preparation triggering enormous rates of crime, teen pregnancy, unemployment and drug usage.

Sated Ms. Gregory, "until we resolve the problems that are limiting the ability of black, and other, children of color from attaining a meaningful, quality education which pushes them to achieve their full potential, we are limiting all children... and we will not solve the problems of poverty, crime, violence and the proliferation of social, economic and political ills crushing our communities."

Among the education speakers were Dr. Asa Hilliard, a noted historian and Georgia State University history professor. Strategy sessions include "Structure and Operations to Coordinate Anti-Tracking Work," "Understanding the Impact of School Inequities," and "Understanding the Role and Impact of Testing Education Reform or Deform."



It takes teamwork to prevent cigarette sales to minors.

Preventing cigarette sales to minors is not a job anyone can do alone. We all have a role to play in this effort—parents, teachers, store owners, state and local officials and, of course, tobacco companies.

At Philip Morris USA, we're teaming up with retailers, wholesalers and other major tobacco manufacturers in support of an ambitious program called "We Card." It is providing stores across the country with signs and educational materials to promote awareness of minimum-age laws and the importance of checking ID.

We're also supporting the passage of state legislation to better enforce existing minimum-age laws.

What can you do to help?

Become familiar with your state's minimum-age laws. Don't buy cigarettes for minors. And don't send minors to buy cigarettes for you. Teamwork can make the difference.



Action Against Access.

Robeson still without stamp of approval

Madam J.C. Walker and Mahalia Jackson are among those who will be honored with a stamp in 1998. The honor is richly deserved, says an entrepreneur who changed the face of beauty for African-American women, the other had a singing voice that was the delight and inspiration of millions.

Woody Guthrie and Sylvester and Tweedle will also get stamps next year, but performing artist and political activists Paul Robeson will not. Despite his many accomplishments as an actor, artist and intellectual, the fact that he looked favorably on the Soviet Union was and is—undoubtedly—against him. If his policies were pointed left, so what. Henry Luc, founder of Time Magazine, political views point as far right—and you'll be able to buy his stamp next year.

This is yet another example of someone not getting what is his just due. We hope that Paul Robeson's visage will be on a stamp in the future. In the meantime, you can still use those Elvis and Marilyn stamps on your bills.

Race dialogue must continue

By Carolyn Bennett

The President's dialogues on race begin with a town meeting in Akron, Ohio, just after Thanksgiving. Just recently, the President talked with ministers of many faiths in a State Dining Room breakfast at the White House.

While the President was talking to the ministers, his advisory panel on race, led by historian John Hope Franklin, was talking about diversity in a meeting at the University of Maryland just outside Washington. A lot of positive stuff was going on during this period.

But the Washington press corps had another agenda. Instead of reporting what happened in the President's meeting or Franklin's meeting, the press created an issue and reported on it.

Instead of dialogues on race, the issue became affirmative action. The press called it a "debate" and the anti-affirmative action activist in California, to wage a dog fight with the House of Representatives. The House of Representatives, in turn, was called the "debate" by the House of Representatives.

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When Time magazine's headline that, gee, teens say they don't have a race problem at all. So what's the fuss about? But buried in Time's story, conveniently based on a time/CNN poll, was the fact that teens reported no problem with race or racism were seg-

Higher standards, higher expectations guarantee better future

By Faye Anderson

With the unveiling of President Clinton's race initiative and the introduction of the Civil Rights Act of 1991, the affirmative action issue is once again on the national public policy agenda. The call for a national dialogue on race will include a debate about the need for a national dialogue on race, which would prohibit the federal government from granting preferences based on race or sex in connection with federal contracting, employment, programs or activities.

When the battle over affirmative action last raged in 1995, one of the casualties was the Federal Communications Commission's minority preference tax certificate program which sellsers of broadcast or cable facilities could defer indefinitely capital gains realized on their sale to minority-controlled entities. The FCC's tax certificate program was instrumental in increasing minority ownership of radio and television stations from less than one percent in 1970 to nearly three percent by the year of its repeal.

A way out of the box of low academic achievement and noncompetitive SAT scores that threatened the need for preferential college admissions policies; is to raise quality standards and maintain a high quality

Faye Anderson is President of the Douglas Policy Institute.

Salvation through savings?

By Askiya Muhammad

One of life's certainties is that every person with any money at all, will get some more money. Every day the bigger the pile, the more money gets the bigger money.

What is not certain is that if you do not get more money, the time that has passed, we will never get back again. There is no future, we live in the "everlasting now."

Indeed, the concept "king's ransom" speaks to the greater value of time/life over money.

Be a generous and cheerful giver to your own salvation/liberation. Give money to the charitable causes with which you identify. Trust me, even if you give your last dime to make a difference to the uplift of your self and your people, you will get some more money, later, as long as you still have time.

Even the poorest of us can share some of what we have, to help someone else more needy than ourselves. We'll get more of what we share, and it's possible that our gift can be the difference for the better in someone else's life, even if we cannot improve our own.

Now, think of us have heard someone or another say: "If every Black person would give \$1 per week, we could get out of poverty." That's true, we just need to have a means to accumulate the cash.

Now, think of Dr. Dorothy Height, President of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). There is a charity to which we can all contribute.

NCNW commenced its 38th convention in Washington last week with

Askiya Muhammad is a Washington, D.C.-based writer photojournalist and radio commentator.

Integration being questioned by some African Americans

By Salim Musakalli

The group that insisted integration into the public discourse — the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) — is stepping away from its traditional support of public school desegregation.

By the group that insisted integration into the public discourse — the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) — is stepping away from its traditional support of public school desegregation.

There's no denying that the issue has provoked conflict within the group, however, internal divisions regarding school desegregation have forced the resignations of at least two branch presidents.

Among African Americans outside the NAACP, the ideal of integration is even more endangered. For some critics, the four-syllable word may have lost its meaning.

Black nationalists condemn the quest for integration as a quest for "gold." By eliminating black consciousness, they argue, desegregation served to erode the natural foundation of political leverage in the struggle for black liberation.

Opposition to integration is growing among African Americans across

Judicial independence integral to maintaining the rule of law

By Judge William S. Sessions

In the media spotlight of high public interest trials, such as the Massachusetts case where all parties issued multiple statements, day in and day out, and people picketed outside the Cambridge courthouse, it is important to remember the true role of the court and the judge who presides over the trial.

The true role of the judge is not to be a caricature in a made-for-television sitcom, where the viewer tunes in for entertainment and then clicks to skip the trial. The true role of a judge is not to be shaped by pressure groups promoting a particular outcome.

Rather, the true role of a trial and appellate judge is to uphold the rule of law by ensuring that each party in a trial has its day in court. This principle is at the core of our democracy. This critically serious business requires that a judge protect the rights of all participants in a trial as well as the public interest. This principle is what has made the American legal system the most copied judicial system model in emerging democracies around the world.

The judicial process requires time to unfold. It is deliberate and thoughtful, designed to ensure that all issues are carefully weighed and considered. It is designed to produce the truth. Without this careful and deliberate process, under the rule of law, the

a live nationwide tele-conference linking 100 cities, launching the "Brown Book Tradition," an economic "success story," that happens when people save quarters in special "Brown Boxes" to help others.

The "Brown Book" is like a child's "bank," except that when we save money in a bank, we're saving it for ourselves. The "Brown Book" is a tradition which belongs to every African-American home, and business, because it develops in us the tradition of saving to help someone else, or some needy cause.

Once every four months, each of us who has a Brown Book, will collect the money in it, and send it to NCNW, 633 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20004. By the time the next generation of our people grows up with this tradition of thrift and charity in our homes, we will be well on the way to solving our social problems, and much more.

One people (and even nations) develop the habit—the tradition—of saving something out of every little bit they get (no matter how small), they are on the way to becoming immune to slavery and oppression. You see, "debt is slavery," and no one can "spend himself" into "freedom," he can only "have" himself free.

Askiya Muhammad is a Washington, D.C.-based writer photojournalist and radio commentator.

The Piscataway Case was never an affirmative action example

Dr. Yvonne Scruggs-Lefkovich

The Black Leadership Forum, Inc. (BLF) welcomed the December 2 appeal by the Supreme Court, which dismissed the appeal in the Board of Education of the Piscataway Township v. Taxman case, a BLF leadership believes that the dismissal benefits both the nation as a whole as well as all minorities and women.

From the outset, BLF was deeply concerned that the case had become identified as an important test of affirmative action. The Piscataway case involved a layoff decision based on race alone, rather than the more typical circumstances such as hiring or promotion, where taking race into account along with other relevant factors promotes diversity and inclusiveness.

In making the 1989 decision of whom to terminate, the Superintendent and School Board said that they could not discriminate between a White teacher and an African American teacher who were hired on the very same day.

Both were described as equal in every respect, in spite of the fact that they had different teaching histories and, in fact, the African-American teacher, Dr. Sharon Taxman, had a Master's Degree. The White teacher, Sharon Taxman, did not.

The White teacher sued to get her job back. She won in the lower court and the Court of Appeals. Although Williams felt that her Master's Degree made her better qualified than Taxman, she felt that the School Board had intentionally created a contest between her and a Black teacher, this evidence was never aired

Salim Musakalli is a contributing columnist for the Washington Times and a Senior Editor of In These Times magazine.

Dr. Yvonne Scruggs-Lefkovich is Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Black Leadership Forum, Inc.

We must honor our fathers

By Mike Ramey

Dr. E.V. Hill, noted pastor of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles, California, has, on several occasions, told national audiences about the relationship he had with his father.

Hill puts no punches about his upbringing. His parents divorced when he was young. He did not see his father following the divorce until his later years, and then it was only once.

But the time came when God brought his father back into his life. Hill was an adult then, firmly established in the ministry. Over time, Hill's bitterness turned to admiration, then to forgiveness, then to genuine love for his dad.

Not only did the two reconcile, they renewed their bond as father and son. A bond no government program, bureaucratic rule, or cultural meltdown can break.

Hill explained once, when recounting his relationship with his father, that he realized he was his dad, all over again. The same holds true for many of us today.

My own dad passed away in 1979. While there were times that were not all right, I still fondly cherish his memory, because I have realized that I am truly my father, all over again.

The scriptural basis of parental honor is quite plain, "Honor your father and mother, and your days will be long."

As a nation, we have spent far too much time honoring our mothers for our children and forgetting our fathers for our stability. However, when we study the facts about our dads, especially the Black dads, we cannot escape from the single truth that all of the social prosperity we

Mike Ramey, a member of the national Advisory Committee of the American Leadership Group, is an associate minister at Greater St. Mark Baptist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Supreme Court has rejected similar arguments about taking race into account in making layoff decisions, the School Board's decision to appeal to the Supreme Court was considered by many as ill advised. And, of great importance to BLF and the civil rights community was that a Supreme Court ruling on this inappropriate action, in the Supreme Court, almost surely would condemn all affirmative action programs.

Based on a widely shared concern for a more national review of Affirmative Action, BLF ultimately received a large number of donations, earmarked for Piscataway, from across the country. With this help, the School Board concluded negotiations, resulting in a ratified settlement on November 20, 1997.

These are the facts. BLF's actions in this affair were not based on fear, but on a common sense concern that this case, simply was a distraction and actually distorted the constructive and effective affirmative action efforts being made all across this country today.

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

NEW YORK—Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts presents its Winter 1997 seminar, Copyright basics for artists working in all creative fields, as well as their attorneys. For more info, call 212-319-2910.

NORTH BRANCH—A course about the Internet will be held from 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at The Institute for Business and Professional Development. For more info, call 908-218-8871.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

ISELAN—Francisco A. Moreno, GSA NJ District Director will honor Valley National Bank and other NJ lenders for their participation in the GSA's Quarterly Loan Program from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Woodbridge Hilton. For more info, call 973-645-6064.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

NORTH BRANCH—Food Handlers Training Program will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Institute for Business and Professional Development. For more info, call 908-218-8871.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

NEW BRUNSWICK—JUN (58) presents "Another View" which highlights the holiday traditions of African-American families and reveals the meaning of Kwanzaa. Air time is 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

NEW BRUNSWICK—JUN (58) presents "Another View" which looks back at the year in review with highlights from the best programs of the show. Air time is 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

NEW YORK—Career counseling for career changers will be provided from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at New York University, Loom Student Center, Room 310. For more info, call 212-968-7050.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

BASKING RIDGE—You're invited to our monthly networking service from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Olive Mill Inn. For more info, call 908-725-1552.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

ELIZABETH—A one day seminar on basic supervision for anyone who supervises people at the Holiday Inn Jorpat. To register, call 1-800-821-3919.

Organized activities helping African Americans enter economic mainstream

By William Reed

More and more African Americans have got their mind on their money and money on their minds. While many "black leaders" are in the midst of debates defining a "new civil rights agenda" for the 21st Century, there are growing alliances among other blacks toward formation of organizations and actions plans to actualize economic development.

The New Black Power Movement is fueled by sound economic ideology and ideas. These blacks practice capitalism at the level of other ethnic groups. Currently, while households' personal wealth is more than double that of black households, while blacks' unemployment numbers are consistently twice that of whites. Blacks involved in economic development projects are taking up black and eliminating this disparity of income and career opportunities. Discovering how to "do for self"

and aligning with others of similar mindsets, the movement is organizing around common and collective interests in economic growth. They are learning things, not obvious to most Blacks, that clogs in the capitalist chain know already know must be done to make the process work. They're of a mindset that says, "until Blacks contribute more toward America's economics nothing will change in our social status."

This New Black Power Movement is made up of people who recognize our change must come from within. Civil rights and political leaders lack the government and corporations to "do right by us." But, real black wealth-builders recognize we have to take the lead toward solutions to our problems. The movement is part and parcel to pills showing most blacks in contrast to positions taken by traditional leadership. These blacks are for: school choice, continued welfare reform and greater participation of faith-based

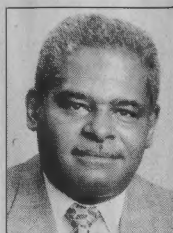
institutions in addressing social problems, and want greater tax breaks, regulatory reform and capital investment to spur economic growth and job creation in inner city communities.

The record shows that current civil rights and political leaders lack the background and vision to do more than they've done toward Blacks' economic prosperity. What's needed now toward Blacks' economic advancement are visionaries who've already been there and done that. Groups building economic cooperation among African Americans and advancing the goals of broader segments of blacks include: The Black Family Empowerment Agenda, headed by Wilmington, NC publisher Peter Greer; National Black Business Trade Association, Inc. (NBBTA), headed by Lee Green and Jim Klingman's Greater Cincinnati African-American Chamber of Commerce. Greer, a Washington, D.C.-based financial specialist, says,

"There's strength in numbers and if we are going to grow economically, we have to organize, just as every other 'self-interest' group in America organized themselves and learned from the experience." Black Commerce groups are bringing blacks together for black business development; consumer and youth education and furthering the Black Church's role in economic development.

Got your mind on making money? Take note: it helps to be around those who can "show you money," and how to get it. The Civil Rights Movement brought laws and regulations making all equal in the eyes of government and its courts. What we need now is a Black Power Movement comprised of people who understand how to gain the American Dream, through: taking charge for and with each other assuming responsibility for one's self and actions, and unity toward collective economic power.

New chair of City National



Eugene W. Giscombe

Louis E. Preza, President and CEO, City National Bank of New Jersey (CNB) is pleased to announce that Eugene W. Giscombe, President and CEO of Giscombe Henderson, Inc. has been elected to serve as new Board Chairman.

Giscombe, a well respected entrepreneur and successful real estate broker, takes the helm of CNB's Board of Directors, as the Bank nears the celebration of its 25th anniversary and embarks upon a new era of providing quality financial services throughout the tri-state area.

City National Bank of New Jersey, the state's only African-American commercial banking institution, has branch operations serving both Essex and Bergen County.

With assets of nearly \$140 million, CNB ranks among the top ten largest minority banks in the country.

Free brochure on tax planning and the new tax law

ROSELAND—The New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJSCPA) offers a free brochure entitled "The New Tax Laws and You: Planning for 1997 and 1998," which outlines some of the important changes made by the 1997 Taxpayer Relief Act that may affect your 1997 tax bill, as well as tax planning strategies for 1998 and future years.

For your free copy, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: 1997 Guide For Taxpayers, NJSCPA, 425 Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, New Jersey 07068-1723.

Also, at no charge, highly qual-

ified CPAs are available to address community groups on tax planning and the new tax law. To schedule a speaker for your organization, contact Jennifer Filoso at the NJSCPA Speakers Bureau, (973) 226-4494 x241, a few weeks prior to your meeting.

Celebrating 100 Years of Service to New Jersey, the NJSCPA is one of the oldest CPA Societies in the country. Founded in Newark in 1898, the Society is now one of the largest in the United States with 14,000 members who work in business, industry, public practice, government and education.

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Local Briefs

National Guard delivers AT&T computers to schools

BASKING RIDGE—The New Jersey Army National Guard performed maneuvers of a different kind recently—delivering refurbished computers to 20 schools as part of a \$5 million education program sponsored by the AT&T Learning Network in New Jersey. Those schools are the first scheduled group to receive computers.

"We're very excited that schools are taking advantage of our offer," said Joan Fenwick, director of the AT&T Learning Network. "We're making it easier for parents to find out what's going on in their children's school. They now have the option of accessing the school's website from home."

Equal Justice Awards announced

EDISON—The thirteenth annual Equal Justice Awards reception, sponsored by Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) and the New Jersey State Bar Association (NJSBA), took place recently at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick. The reception honors those in the public and private sectors who have made major contributions toward securing greater justice for people in poverty.

Melville D. Miller, Jr., LSNJ president, noted that this year's award recipients "reflected the fact that the effort to secure equal justice requires participation from many different segments of society, across all spectrums." The awardees include a federal judge, two members of Congress, the outgoing NJSBA president, two members of governor Whitman's staff, a former New Jersey Public Advocate, a foundation executive, a former administrator of the national Legal Services Corporation, and a reporter.

Builders selected for replacement of Archbishop Walsh

NEWARK—The First Connecticut Consulting Group, Inc. (ECCG), recently was selected to build Phase I of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Hope VI housing program, for the Newark Housing Authority (NHA).

Phase I of the \$19 million Hope VI program, is tentatively scheduled to begin construction in March 1998. The first phase of construction will replace the Archbishop Walsh Homes located at Grafton Avenue and Route 21. Construction plans currently show that 198 modular townhouse units will be built over four phases.

Information on how to purchase your own home

NEWARK—The Urban League of Essex County is offering a FREE homebuyers course for people who want to purchase a home. The 5-part series will cover topics such as, home shopping techniques, finding a good home, types of mortgages, closing costs, financial strategies, budgeting and post-purchase home maintenance. At the end of the course graduates will earn an FHA approved certificate that will help them qualify for a mortgage.

Location:
Urban League of Essex County
140 Bloomfield Ave.,
Montclair, NJ
Every Thursday for 5 weeks
January 15, 1998 - February 12, 1998, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Toys for tots have drives in two places

NEWARK—President Donald Bradley, the Newark Municipal Council and the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, in association with the South Ward Unity Committee, will sponsor their first annual "Toys for Tots Christmas Reunion Dance" at the Terrace Ballroom, 1030 Broad Street, Newark. The affair will be held on Friday, December 19 from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Bring your own brown bag and a toy for a child and enjoy the affair. Admission is free with a ticket and an unwrapped toy for a boy or a girl. For tickets or table information contact Council President Bradley's office at 973-733-8043.

In another Toys for Tots effort, Assemblyman Craig Stanley of Irvington announced his third annual drive. This event will be held at Visits Sports and Dance Club, 43 Washburn Avenue, Irvington from 6 to 8 p.m. Proceeds will be distributed to the Irvington Neighborhood Improvement Corporation and the YM/YWCA of Newark & Vicinity Emergency Residence Program.

Admission is free with an unwrapped toy for a boy or girl. Those who cannot attend but would like to donate can call either Assemblyman Stanley's office at 973-399-1000 or Council President Bradley's office at 973-733-8043.

Book signing at Newark Museum

Congressman William L. Clay of the first district of Missouri recently came to the Newark Museum to discuss and sign copies of his book "Just Permanent Interests" before a group of well-wishers and supporters.

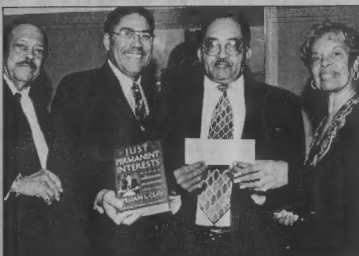
The event, sponsored by Quality Book Promotions in East Orange, NJ and hosted by Mr. and Mrs. William Giles, also featured the announcement that 100 copies of the book will be donated to the Voorhees College library in Denmark, SC by Malachia Brantley, president, Brantley Brothers Moving and Storage in Newark. "This book has fascinating information, and I am proud to send these copies to my alma mater."

Congressman Clay is a senior member of the Missouri Congressional delegation and a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. Congressman Clay shares thirty-nine years of experience and insight into the political process and the roles that Black elected officials

have played in its development from the post Civil War era until 1992. In this book filled with history, Clay writes that, while the black leaders in the post Civil War period were often depicted as crude and uneducated, this was not the case. He also expounds from his first hand knowledge that, the business of effective government is neither fun nor games for elected officials.

Clay illustrates why widespread, unemployment, excessive numbers of women heading households, high rates of crime, teenage pregnancies and other tragic issues that are a part of the black experience must be addressed.

Bill Giles said, "We feel strongly that this book should be in every public library, as well as the library of every high school and college," he said, "It is important for our young people to take their place as well informed voters."



Malachia Brantley, Sr., third from left, of Brantley Moving and Storage, presents a check for \$2,500 for the cost of sending copies of "Just Permanent Interests" to his alma mater. With him are, from left, William Giles, Congressman William Clay and Mrs. Altahe Giles.

Irvington promotes fire officers



Irvington Mayor Sara B. Bost, first row, poses with Irvington Fire Department chief and director Don Huber, kneeling, and the 21 men installed as the township's newest firefighters.

The acting chief of the Irvington Fire Department was installed as permanent chief in a ceremony that also featured the promotions of 14 other fire officials recently.

A 17-year IFD veteran, Donald M. Huber, who was serving in the dual capacity as director and acting chief, assumed his new position after a 2 1/2 year stint as deputy chief. He was approved for the directorship on June 23, 1996 after serving as acting director for 10 months.

A day-long Kwanzaa fest for the entire family

NEWARK—Come celebrate Kwanzaa during a full day of performances, workshops and other festive fun for the entire family at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center's Victoria Theater, Saturday, December 20, 1997. Admission to NJPAC's Kwanzaa Festival includes a reserved seat for a performance by either Universal Language or Return to the Source. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$7 for children under 12 and may be purchased by telephone (1-888-600-NJPAC) or at the NJPAC Box Office at One Center Street in downtown Newark.

The NJPAC Kwanzaa Festival has been designed as a fun way to explain and reinforce the positive lessons of this seven-day African American cultural celebration observed each year from December 26 through January 1. Kwanzaa is based on Nguzo Saba, a collection of seven principles of individual strength and community which serve as guides for daily living.

Music, movement and poetry combine in the dynamic performances of Universal Language, a multi-dimensional group of artist and educators which has since 1978 thrilled audiences of all ages with its high-energy cultural and educational entertainment. Comprised of dancers, singers and instrumentalists, Universal Language uses an extensive array of costumes and musical instruments to create an original blend of music and dance to explore the influence of African tradition on today's world.

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PNC Bank grant enhances services in Essex County



The from the PNC Bank will enable children from the Friendly Full Day Care Center in Newark to learn about the computers. On hand to help the students in this photo are, from left John Nitzel, Regional Executive of the PNC Bank Essex Region; Cathy Maupins, Deputy Executive Director of Friendly Full Day Care Center; Tony Peole, Executive Director of the Community Agencies Corporation of NJ; and Carrie Smith, Manager of the PNC Bank Little Office.

NEWARK—A \$77,500 grant from the PNC Bank Foundation will enable the Community Partners For Youth (CPY) Program to enhance the services

it provides to more than 400 disadvantaged individuals in Essex County. Sponsored by the Community Agencies Corporation of NJ (CAC), CPY delivers a customized, comprehensive package of programs and services for at-risk children and families to assist them in achieving a more productive, healthy and self-sufficient lifestyle. The PNC Bank Foundation grant will provide educational materials for CPY's day care, Head Start and Reading is Fundamental programs as well as support the Welcoming: Healthy Beginnings initiative which provides individualized case management plans.

"Thanks to the generous support of PNC Bank, we can continue to assist as many youngsters as possible during their most impressionable years," said Cheryl Pele, Community Partners for Youth Coordinator. "This grant will also more help us to maintain and grow CPY, which links together the programs and services of 20 agencies and more than 50 individual programs."

The PNC Bank Foundation supports nonprofit organizations which provide services within the communities served by PNC Bank. Its mission is to support the enrichment and growth of these communities and to empower the people in its market to maximize their human potential. The PNC Bank Foundation funding categories include arts and culture, civic activities, community development, education, and health and welfare.

'First Night Newark' is looking for volunteers

400 crative people needed

NEWARK—The Newark Municipal Council's Quality of Life Committee, well underway in its plans to ring in the new year with its First Night Newark celebration of the arts is looking for about 400 volunteers to help make it happen.

A first for the city, First Night Newark is an alcohol-free event which will feature music and song, dance, theater, magic and various art work culminating in a spectacular fireworks display along the Passaic riverfront. An interactive walk-a-bout suitable for the whole family, First Night Newark is intended to showcase the works of artists and performers from the local Essex County area and beyond, and is expected to draw thousands to Newark's downtown business and cultural district.

Beginning December 31 at about 6 p.m. with a festive grand procession of community participants, all totting decorative plaster casts of their feet in honor of this year's theme, "Let It Be A Dance," this event promised by far to be the most fun, inexpensive and safest way to celebrate the New Year in the city.

Until then, First Night organizers are inviting persons with a little time and creative flair to volunteer to participate in Newark's first and largest holiday celebration.

There are just so many people needed to make this event happen, we welcome any amount of time people can give," says councilwoman-at-large Gayle H. Chaneyfield, who chairs the First Night Newark committee.

Volunteers are encouraged to join the various subcommittees involved in the production of First Night festivities. Individuals, organizations, and creative types are needed to work as activity assistants, site managers, stage managers, master of ceremonies, ushers, procession assistants, set-up and break-down staff as well as on the marketing and artist selection subcommittees.

First Night Newark is an initiative of the Newark Municipal Council's Quality of Life Committee. Anyone who is interested in volunteering should call 973-643-7502 for additional information.

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY

Saturday mornings, Mary Hopkins-Walker lets local students transform her area McDonald's parking lots into car washes. Last year alone, the Clinton, Maryland, teens raised over \$8,000 for groups like the Boys and Girls Club. Mary also donates 10 yearly PSAT scholarships, offers weekly senior citizen bingo games, helps with math, and has helped raise over \$22,000 in the last two years for neighborhood clinics.

As founder of the Jackson, Mississippi chapter of "100 Black Men," Leroy Walker, Jr. serves as a role model by mentoring to disadvantaged black teens. As owner of 10 McDonald's and Chairman Elect of the Jackson Chamber of Commerce, Leroy is dedicated to the economic development of his community and to improving local education and race relations. The former high school teacher and football coach is a true community activist, leader and visionary.

Louis C. Henry, Jr. is about "giving kids productive and giving them a chance." Louis mixes with local police, clergy and schools in identity nearly "at risk" teens in St. Paul, Minnesota, and helps teach them work and life skills at his four year-old McDonald's. He's also Vice-Chairman of the Mayor's Workforce Development Council supporting student programs which provide tutoring and job. Last summer alone, Louis' dedication and commitment helped find 1,000 jobs for the youth in his community.

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Early detection of heart disease key for African-American Women

By Cheryl R. Martin, M.D. and Patricia Davidson, M.D.

One key to combating heart disease among African-American women is early identification of risk factors and efforts to make preventive modifications in lifestyle, whenever possible. While African-American women experience all the classic risk factors for heart disease, there are several to which they must pay particular attention.

The classic risk profile for heart disease is based on a male model of disease. Symptoms of coronary artery disease can appear differently in women than in men, and the relative significance of various risk factors can vary. The risk factors are:

High blood pressure—The prevalence of high blood pressure among black females is 1.7 times that among whites. There is a five-fold difference in incidence of morbidity and mortality among blacks (both men and women) from high blood pressure than whites. Moreover, it develops earlier, it is under-treated, and complications are more severe. Early diagnosis and treatment of hypertension are key for averting heart disease among black women. Although this has improved over the past 30 years, uncontrolled high blood pressure requiring emergency care is a grave condition that still occurs most commonly among blacks.

More than half of all women over 55 have high blood pressure (hypertension), and women over 65 are more likely than men to develop high blood pressure. Women should be tested for high blood pressure more frequently over age 50, and if they have it, it should be treated.

Cholesterol—The Framingham minority study found that blacks—both men and women—have lower HDL levels, the "good" cholesterol—than whites.

Total levels of blood cholesterol and LDL (low-density lipoprotein) levels are not as important predictors for heart disease in women as in men. Women with HDL (high-density lipoproteins) under 40 are at high risk for heart disease. High triglyceride levels (150 or higher) are by themselves a risk factor in women, according to data derived from the Framingham study. Women should make sure their physicians measure their blood cholesterol and provide them with a complete breakdown reading. Diet adjustment may be necessary to move cholesterol levels from the risk zone.

Diabetes—Not only are both Type I and Type II diabetes more prevalent among blacks and other minorities (50 percent higher) than whites, they are specifically higher among blacks; women who are more than twice as likely as white women (eight percent vs. Three percent) to develop diabetes.

Diabetes is more prevalent among women than men, and women with diabetes are more than twice as likely to suffer a heart attack as nondiabetic women the same age. After one heart attack, diabetes doubles the risk of a second in women, but not in men.

Diet—The diet of African-American women is higher in both fat and salt content than the average American diet.

Physical inactivity—For reasons unknown, black women have a much lower rate of physical activity than white women.

Inactivity is an important risk factor. All women should combat a sedentary lifestyle with vigorously exercise for at least 20 minutes three times a week.

Body weight (obesity)—Obesity is more common among African-American women (40 percent rate according to 1990 statistics) than whites, and becomes more of a problem with increasing age. A five-year heart study of several hundred women between 18 and 30, found that black women with no children gained an average of 12.75 pounds whereas white women in the same category gained less than half, or 5.95 pounds.

Obesity is a very important independent risk factor in women. Also, the combination of obesity with Type II (adult-onset) diabetes, hypertension and elevated triglycerides, often associated with smoking and sedentary lifestyle, indicates increased risk. Weight loss is essential for women who are overweight to reduce this risk factor.

Age—Women develop heart disease about a decade later than men, around 55 as opposed to 45.

Smoking—This may be the most significant risk factor in women. More women than men smoke, they begin at a younger age, and women are less successful at quitting. Wherever there has been a 20 percent reduction in smoking among men in the past 20 years, there has been only

Tis' the Season to be stressed and depressed

No one is immune! Relatives coming for the holidays. Shopping to do but short on cash. Boss assigns you a project with a year-end due date on Christmas Eve. Kids out of school and the sister has left town. Girl friend breaks off a two year engagement right before the holidays and now you'll be alone. Maybe these events would not have so much an impact at any other time of the year, but when the holidays roll around everything seems "bigger and badder", more stressful and more depressing.

Take a deep breath and follow some of these simple suggestions to keep you smiling and the bells ringing through the holiday season:

- Don't commit to more than you can handle. Plan your time and stick to your plan.

- Maintain your health. Monitor what you eat and drink and get enough sleep.

- Stick to your exercise program and remember to laugh; think of it as "inner jogging."

- When shopping, stay within a budget.

- Acknowledge feelings of grief or loss. If you are separated from family or friends, realize that the feeling of loss is normal. Allow yourself to express your emotions.

- Avoid unrealistic expectations. Don't be so critical of yourself or others. The magic of the holidays will probably not solve your personal or family problems.

- Breathe deeply, take some time for yourself and just enjoy the sights and sounds of the holidays.

Prostate Cancer awareness and early detection essential for men over forty

NEWARK—The American Cancer Society estimates that more than 200,000 men will be diagnosed with (new) cases of prostate cancer in the United States this year, including 6,900 in New Jersey, making prostate cancer the second leading cancer in men.

"We recommend that every man aged 40 and over should have a digital rectal exam (DRE) as part of his annual check-up and that men aged 50 and over should have an annual prostate-specific antigen blood test," said Everett Merrill, Communications Director, of the American Cancer Society New Jersey Division, Inc. "If results detect possible prostate cancer, further evaluation in the form of a transrectal ultrasound should be performed."

According to the American Cancer Society, warning signs of prostate cancer include weak interrupted urine flow, inability to urinate, difficulty starting or stopping the urine flow, the need to urinate frequently, especially at night, blood in the urine, pain or burning on urination, continuing pain in the lower back, pelvis or upper thighs. These symptoms may be similar to those caused by benign conditions such as

infection or prostate enlargement. Men 40 years old and over, however, should be screened regardless of whether they have experienced any warning signs.

The exam includes a blood test and a digital rectal exam for prostate cancer screening, as well as a blood pressure check.

American Preferred Provider Plan, Inc., a physician-created and operated Independent Practitioners Association (IPA) model health maintenance organization (HMO) serving the commercial and Medicaid markets in Central and Northern New Jersey, fully supports efforts that foster patient education, and continuity of care provided by one's Primary Care Physician. "In addition to the Men's Health Exam, we are proud to offer community outreach programs all year long including breast cancer prevention, immunization programs for children, anti-substance abuse clinics and more. We believe an educated member base will result in a healthier population and reduced health care costs for all," said Dr. Mazhar El-Amin, Senior Vice President of Medical Management.

MHS Health Plan teams up with New Jersey Nets to stop the violence



NEWARK—More than 20 youngsters from local organizations, showed up recently to watch the game between the New Jersey Nets and the Golden State Warriors. MHS, Chris Galligan, Center for The New Jersey Nets and the New Jersey Nets Organization will provide approximately 45 tickets to each Nets home game to MHS' members, students and community-based organizations as incentives for taking part in the Stop The Violence workshop. Shown here at the Nets home game held recently are: Students from the Donald Jackson Neighborhood Corporation, the Friendly Full House and New Community Corporation, third row second left, Sharonda Evans, Executive Director of Community Schools, New Community Corporation; (back row left), MHS representatives: John Kirchner, Government Relations Director, (c) Maria Pajli Battle, Vice President, Government Programs Marketing & Sales, in back row right, Joyce Cobbs, Customer Service Director, Eladio Negron, Community Relations Representative, Julius Blanton Executive Director Donald Jackson Neighborhood Corporation; Randall Alston, Executive Director Friendly Full House.

New law aims to reduce prescription fraud

NEWARK—Legislation signed by Governor Whitman recently went into effect mandating that all prescriptions written in New Jersey to be issued on uniform, non-reproducible state approved New Jersey Prescription Blanks (NJPBs). Attorney General Peter Verniero and New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs Director Mark S. Herr said.

"The Uniform Prescription Blanks Act" will require all practitioners authorized to issue prescriptions to use only new non-reproducible, non-reproducible prescription blanks for all written prescriptions. The prescription blanks will be available in

single form, two-part carbonless form or a computer ready form.

This new law puts New Jersey in the forefront of fighting fraud and has the potential to reduce the number of forged prescriptions billed to the State Medicaid Program, thus saving taxpayers an estimated \$10 million a year," Verniero said. "It will also reduce other forms including those involving controlled dangerous substances."

In order to accommodate pharmacists and practitioners and facilitate a smooth transition to the new system, pharmacists may accept prescriptions which are not written on NJPB's for a

period of 90 days after December 1. In cases where the pharmacist is not familiar with the practitioner, however, he or she must verify the prescription by telephone. After the 90-day phase-in period, pharmacists will not be able to accept prescriptions unless they are on the new approved prescription blank.

"Several other states have expressed interest in following New Jersey's lead in implementing this new law," Herr said. "We have made every effort to accommodate the practical concerns of the prescribing community and appreciate their efforts."

1997—A year of progress in the treatment of Impotence

LIVINGSTON—There's been a revolution going on in the treatment of impotence. Over the past twenty years, doctors have made great strides in the form of available treatment: implants, vacuum devices and penile injections — but this year has been one of the most progressive, according to Dr. Stanley Bloom, M.D., Medical Director of the Men's Sexual Health Center, one of the most active clinical trial venues in the country.

"From the Muse Urethra pellet introduced in January of this year to the very first oral medications for impotence, over 15 million American men who suffer from impotence now have a greater choice of treatment options for a return to sexual function."

Three oral medications for impotence—Viagra, Apomorphine and Vasomex—are currently being tested in the United States. Clinical trials on Apomorphine and Vasomex are in progress at the Men's Sexual Health Center, one of the most active clinical trial venues in the country.

"Apomorphine, a drug that is 70 percent effective in men with both psychological and physical impotence, is in Phase III Clinical Trials at the Men's Sexual Health Center," said Dr. Bloom. "In order for this drug to be effective, sexual stimulation is important."

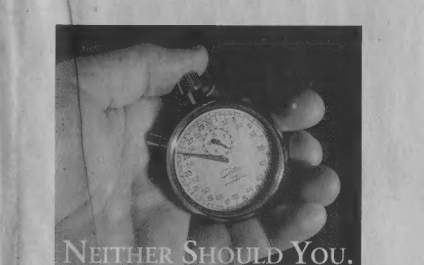
The other medication currently undergoing study and clinical trial at the Men's Sexual Health Center is Vasomex, a drug that acts on the peripheral circulation.

A third drug that acts on the

peripheral circulation, Viagra, or Sildenafil, is a medication manufactured by Pfizer Inc. that causes erections to occur within 20 to 30 minutes of swallowing the pill. This medication may be available by April, according to a recent report at the National Institutes of Health.

The Food and Drug Administration recently promulgated a quick review of Viagra, and it could be released in early 1998.

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Breakthrough treatments for osteoporosis

UNION—Every year, osteoporosis leads to 1.5 million bone fractures, including more than 500,000 vertebral fractures, 300,000 hip fractures, 200,000 wrist fractures and 300,000 fractures of other bones. According to the National Osteoporosis Foundation, the bone-shattering condition costs \$10 billion annually. Although there is no cure for osteoporosis, Martin Hyman, M.D., a geriatrician at Union Hospital offers sound advice to slow age-related bone loss, and to repair deteriorated bones.

"Literally, osteoporosis means porous bone," explains Dr. Hyman. "The condition develops over a period of years when bone is broken down faster than it is made, thus making it fragile and more susceptible to fractures."

The condition threatens 25 million Americans, mostly post-menopausal women. In fact, spinal compression fractures—small cracks in the vertebrae that can create a curved upper back—affected one-fourth of all women over age 60.

"The most effective preventive measures are proper diet and exercise," advises Dr. Hyman. "Boosting calcium consumption is vital, as well as limiting alcohol intake and eliminating smoking. Strength training and weight-bearing exercise like walking and hiking fortify bones, thus slowing down or preventing further bone loss."

Osteoporosis does not show up on conventional X-rays until a quarter or more of the bone's mineral content is gone. But new imaging techniques can detect the condition before the broken-bone stage, while it's still treatable. Bone density readings are compared to standards for the patient's age, sex and body size, or past personal readings. The most sensitive scanner can spot even a 1 percent loss of bone mass.

Dr. Hyman considers a patient's medical history and risk factors in deciding

who should have a bone density test. "The best candidates are typically post-menopausal women at high risk for bone fractures, but premenopausal women who have bone-threatening medical conditions such as type 1 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis or hyperthyroidism, may also benefit from scanning."

Patients with osteoporosis now have more treatment options than ever. Dr. Hyman notes some of the best treatments:

- Estrogen-replacement therapy (ERT)—the most effective way to slow bone loss in women who have osteoporosis, according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Because of possible serious side effects, ERT is not an option for everyone.

- Alendronate—This drug, sold under the brand name Fosamax, is an oral medication which hinders bone breakdown and increases bone mass. In a study of 2,000 women with osteoporosis, researchers found that the drug reduced new hip and spinal fractures by about 50 percent. Fosamax is the first nonhormonal drug for treating osteoporosis.

- Calcitonin—This is the hormone responsible for regulating the level of calcium in the blood. It also slows down bone-eating cells. It was previously available only by injection, but the synthetic version of the hormone is now sold as a nasal spray under the brand name Miscalcin.

Although drug therapy can provide a line of defense against osteoporosis, Dr. Hyman states, "evidence is mounting that healthy lifestyle choices may be a person's best bet for fighting osteoporosis."

For more information regarding osteoporosis or any of the medications mentioned, consult your physician. For assistance in finding a physician, contact CareFinders, Union Hospital's physician reference service, at 908-688-8777.



It costs little to share

ORANGE—Cynthia Hood of 1 is one of many who collect her food basket from the Managed Healthcare Systems Health Plan (MHS) and SHARE-NJ cooperative food program. Hood, a MHS member and mother of three children, has raised her family with help of the SHARE program 12 years, and has used the MHS discount coupon since its inception last April. Anyone with a Families First card who gives two hours of community service can get a SHARE food basket for \$14 in cash or with their card. However, MHS members pay only \$4 with MHS contributing the balance. For further information, call 1-800-941-4647.

African American Women

Continued from page B1

a six percent reduction among women. Women smokers are at two to six times greater risk of heart attack than their non-smoking counterparts. The best advice is to make every effort to stop smoking.

Hormonal status—While women are still menstruating, their risk of heart disease is lower than that of men. Once they pass through menopause, however, the incidence increases for women who are not on estrogen replacement therapy. Most studies show a 50 percent reduction in risk of a coronary event in postmenopausal women who are taking synthetic estrogens. Hormonal therapy, however, should be prescribed on an individual basis, weighing all the risks and benefits.

Family history—It is unclear whether family history plays as strong a role in women's health risk factors as in

men's, but it is known that history of heart disease interacts with other risk factors.

Lack of Access to Medical Care—African-American women frequently lack access to health care services, so as a result, overall they are less informed about heart disease, its risk factors and prevention. They are less exposed to counseling or health programs about over-weight, high blood pressure, smoking, diabetes, high cholesterol levels and other risk factors. Lack of access influences black women to delay seeking care for potential cardiac symptoms. By the time they are diagnosed with these risk factors, coronary heart disease may already have developed or become more advanced than in other American females. This may increase the overall likelihood of cardiac-related events such as cardiac arrest occurring, outside of the hospital setting.

Consumers alerted on dangerous toys

TRENTON—The New Jersey Department of Law & Public Safety and the New Jersey Public Interest Research Group (NJPIRG) recently warned New Jersey parents, grandparents, guardians and adults to avoid purchasing potentially dangerous toys as they start shopping during the 1997 holiday season. Attorney General Peter Verniero and New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs Director Mark S. Herr said.

The National Electronic Injury Surveillance System estimates there were 140,700 toy-related injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 1996. Almost half of the injuries were to children under five years of age.

"We want everyone to have a happy holiday season and that means, first and foremost, a safe holiday season," Verniero said. "Safe holidays start with safe toys."

The Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that 13 toy-related deaths occurred nationally in 1996 with victims ranging in age from 12 months through 11 years. Choking was reported in 10 of the fatal incidents.

The federal Child Safety Protection Act requires toy manufacturers to explicitly label toys that present choking hazards. It also requires that warning labels be clear, noticeable and placed on the portion of the package most visible from a store shelf.

Herr urged parents to carefully examine toys before making purchases and pledged that the Division's Toy Task Force will be in stores again this

holiday season. The task force, in conjunction with county Consumer Affairs offices, will be inspecting stores throughout the state to ensure that toys that have been recalled by the Consumer Product Safety Commission have been removed from shelves.

"Parents and grandparents need to realize that the age labels on toys don't refer to your child's cognitive abilities. The label indicates that the toy may present a choking threat for children who are too young to handle the toy properly," Herr said.

"At each new stage of their development, children face new challenges and different risks. By being aware of the types of dangers associated with toys at these different stages of development, parents can better protect their children from potential harm," Verniero said.

Parents should use the following guidelines when making their toy selections:

- Look for sturdy toy construction. The eyes, nose and other small parts on soft toys and stuffed animals should be securely fastened to the toy.
- To guard against serious eye or ear injury, avoid toys that shoot small objects into the air or make loud or shrill noises.
- Use the recommended age labeling as a guide and buy only toys suitable for the child's age group.
- Make sure that balls, blocks and toy parts are not smaller than 1 3/4 inches in diameter.

Free lead poison screening to be held December 18

NEWARK—According to the National Safety Council, lead poisoning is the number one environmental concern for children and is also one of the most preventable pediatric health problems today.

Low level poisoning, which usually has no visual symptoms, can cause hearing loss, anemia and impaired physical and mental development. The city of Newark has more reported cases of children with elevated levels of lead in their blood than any other city or county in

New Jersey. To battle this problem, Children's Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center is teaming with The Prudential Foundation to provide a free blood test to detect lead poisoning in children ages 6 months to 6 years of age from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, December 18. The free screening will be held at the hospital's Family Health Center at 166 Lyons Ave. in Newark. No appointment is needed for the screening. For more information, call 973-926-7846.

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RELIGION CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

SUMMIT—The Concord Singers will sponsor a Choral Workshop for Women from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church. It will be conducted by John Bunne, a noted local Conductor and Musician, and will include vocal training, voice exercises and a choral performance at 5 p.m. Open to all with admission being the donation of a can of food goods for a local food pantry. Cost for the Workshop is \$30.00. Students are two for the price of one. Includes lunch and refreshments. For registration, call 973-656-8676.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

ASBURY PARK—Dunbar Repertory Company and St. Augustine's Episcopal Church present "Black Nativity," a gospel song play by Langston Hughes. Tickets are \$10.00 in advance and \$12.00 at the door. For more info, call 732-774-3069.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

SCOTCH PLAINS—A Christmas cantata presented by the Music Ministry of St. John's Baptist Church at 5 p.m. For more info, call 908-232-6972.

Commentary

Prayer verses fear

By Carolyn L. Bennett

Praying in schools burst onto front pages recently when a Paducah, Ky. school boy took a gun to his praying classmates and silenced three of them forever.

Many students say "schools need prayer" because of racial tension and drugs and gangs. When they say this, they are saying they are afraid, and they feel powerless.

Everybody understands fear. Everybody is afraid of something or another. But students across the nation, are going further than saying they are afraid. They are saying, "I want my own force." That counter force is not talking about their fear with parents or school teachers, counselors and administrators, going directly to the source of their fear, mediating conflicts or using law enforcement to rid schools of drugs and gangs.

School teenagers, backed by some adults are arming themselves with public prayer. They are fighting with what they see as their "goodness" against other people's "evil." And they lead their "goodness" over the "sinners" against homosexuals, Jews? Moslems? Catholics, wearers of baggy pants—forcing them to heel or feel their intimidation. In their public prayers, they set themselves apart from their un-praying classmates.

Prayer is meditating better done in quiet, in a private place in a synagogue, cloistered order or in a church, synagogue, temple or mosque in the schools. Children must learn the school curriculum and learn to help their classmates learn. They must learn to use tools of conversation and mediation to end struggles in and around schools. They must learn to use secular and civil means to improve society and alleviate fear. They must learn to work cooperatively with, not apart from, their neighbors and government and schools and law enforcement to remove social ills.

Carolyn Bennett is a lecturer at Howard University.

Youths attend Gospel Music Workshop

By Collin Lyle Howard

"Be here at nine on Sunday morning with your permission slips in hand." These were the words of one of our leaders Mrs. Pam Henry told us in advance of our trip. The day it all began, some 40 excited youth, ready for what was to be—and was—a tiring and wonderful experience.

The Gospel Music Workshop of America, was founded by the late Reverend James Cleveland in 1967, celebrating its 30th year anniversary in Cincinnati Ohio, earlier this year.

Our week began with an approximately 2200-member church service and Lord's Supper. The majority of the congregation was dressed in white attire. Our week consisted of youth workshops, in areas of percussion, voice, Gospel Drama, keyboarding, liturgical dance and choir movement. The classes began at 7:30 a.m. and lasted for 45 minutes. After our last class, which ended at 11:45 a.m., we adjourned for lunch returning for the

G.M.W.A. Youth Mass Choir rehearsal, which lasted for three hours.

There was approximately 550 youth, from all 50 states participating in the daily choir.

After choir rehearsal resumed, we were given time to eat dinner, swim, and shop. At 10 p.m. we attended the Youth Praise and Worship Service and the nightly Gospel Showcase. The Shiloh Baptist Youth Choir of Plainfield was featured on Monday night. The closing of the Gospel Music Workshop featured a live taping of the Youth Mass Choir. This included the Shiloh Baptist Church Youth Choir.

Many Gospel celebrities were recognized or spotted such as, Kirk Franklin and Albertina Walker. It was a real spiritual experience to be among other African-American youth who expressed their belief through song, worship and praise, that Jesus Christ is their personal savior.

Collin is a sophomore at Warlaw



Collin is active in his church as well as school. He most recently starred as Tom in his school's presentation of "To Kill A Mockingbird" and excels as a starting right tackle for the Warlaw Rams. Collin wants to pursue a career in broadcast journalism and law.

Hurdidge in Edison, N.J. He says that his parents, Jimmy and Gloria are his role models. His favorite verse:

Philippians 3:14, "I can do all things through Christ, which strengthens me."

Inner city uplift continues at the Cathedral Second Baptist Church

PERTH AMBOY—Grand opening celebrations took place the entire week-end as vision committees to unfold at the Cathedral-Second Baptist Church. Celebrations will take place at the newly renovated Cathedral Family Life Center formerly known as the historic ELKS Lodge. This four-story building, located directly across the street from The Cathedral, was purchased in 1992.

The Family Life Center houses a youth center known as the Human House. It will serve as a community recreation center that provides an alternative environment for young people. Activities include games and other fun activities will occur here.

The main floor contains the 250 seat Grand Banquet Hall. The Lane Library is also on this floor.

Located on the Second Floor is Vision 2000 Media and Computer Learning Center, offices and a lecture hall on the top level is the Cathedral Hall, and Fitness Room and the Inner City Creative Arts Center.

In 1995, Second Baptist Church purchased property on McClellan Street in

back of The Cathedral, and named it The Mercy House. In response to the demanding need for temporary housing for men and to the problem of chronic homelessness, this property was renovated and renamed the Timothy House.

According to Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr., senior pastor of the Second Baptist Church, "Our continued goal is to change the course of our communities and the lives of our people. We are commissioned to aid this present generation in positively affecting the next generation. The grand opening of these two facilities in the heart of Perth Amboy continues to aid in hope and progress."

The Cathedral Family Life Center and the Timothy House are two of ten pieces of properties owned by the Second Baptist Church. It is one of the fastest growing churches in the state with a membership of 4,500 and was cited by American Baptist Churches, USA as a model church for growth. Programs planned for the two buildings being dedicated this year. Second Baptist Church is committed to redeeming lives and restoring the soul of the city.

Union County honors Bill Moore Sr. of Hillsdale, given Pro Meritis Jubilee Medal



Union County Freeholder Walter D. McNeil, Jr. (right), presents a resolution to Bill Moore Sr., of Hillsdale, honoring him for receiving the Jubilee Medal Pro Meritis awarded for outstanding service to the Archdiocese of Newark. "Mr. Moore received this prestigious award for service to the church he attends, Blessed Sacrament in Newark," said Freeholder McNeil. "He started attending the church in the early 1960s, coached the CVO basketball team and became a commentator to help the people understand the Latin version of the Mass. He certainly deserves the Pro Meritis Award for his hard work and dedication to the church."

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City News Community Network
Bringing People Together

Are you a grave robber?

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

Do you remember the old horror movies where the mad scientist and his companions went around robbing graves to get body parts and specimens for his experiments? They would lurk out in the cemetery, dig up a recently interred body and take it back to his laboratory. Many of us are like these grave robbers. We go to the graveyard of our subconscious and dig up old memories attempting to give them life and vitality.

All of us have the faculty of memory and it is a valuable tool if it is used properly. We can use it to recall past events. We can use it to learn lessons and see what we did that was harmful to ourselves or what was beneficial. However, too many of us use our memories in an attempt to live in the past. We dredge up "the good old days," old wounds, hurts, insults past relationships or painful events. By bringing them into our consciousness, we give them temporary life.

Depending on how vivid your memory and imagination are, these images can appear extremely real. What we don't realize is that along with the memories come emotional and physiological reactions and responses. To demonstrate, think of the happiest time in your life. Make the images real in your mind's eye. Hold the image. Then monitor your emotional and physical reactions to these memories. How did you feel? Next recall a time that makes you sad or angry. See the images, the people, the situation, make it vivid in your mind's eye. Now check your reaction to this memory. How do you feel?

You have to be careful which memories and images you bring up into our consciousness. We have to learn to use our memory to assist us in living in the now. The past is over and done. The future is yet to be. The only moment that is real to us is this one, right now. Be

selective about how you use your memory. Don't be a grave robber. Allow your memories to rest in peace. Don't dig up all the negative things that happened when you were growing up. Get over them and get on with your life. Use your memory for learning lessons and preparing you to live an effective, healthy and prosperous life. Don't dwell on old hurts, lost loves ones who have made their transition, old relationships that didn't work out, failures and disappointments. Learn the lesson and move on. Bless them and let them go.

My relative's wife, who was in her husband's at the time, told me she still hated her grandmother for things she did to her when she was a child. Imagine this woman holding a grudge against her 40 year-old who had been dead for over 40 years! So her grandmother didn't treat her like she wanted to be treated. So what? Every time she mentioned her grandmother's name she became angry and visibly upset. This woman was a seasoned and practiced grave robber. Now that I think about it she delighted in digging up old wounds, not only about her grandmother but other family members. Through my dealings with her, I witnessed first hand how dragging up old memories could sour the present, cause tension and create bad vibes in a room.

All of us have experienced pain, heartache and disappointment. Friends have let us down, we've come up short in our own expectations and things have happened to us that have knocked the wind from our sails. So what? Get over it and move on. Yes, it's painful. Yes, it hurts, but it will not kill you. We are stronger and tougher than we realize. Get up. Dust yourself off and keep getting up. Learn the lesson you need to move on and then move on. Life presents enough trauma and drama without lugging dead memories along. Most of us are carrying heavy emotional baggage, and it is weighing us down. If we dumped it into our unconscious and let it sink into the depths instead of haunting it around in our consciousness, it will be much better off. Yes, there are benefits to recalling the good times and the happy memories. But we still have to live in the now. Use your memories to motivate yourself. Use them as a catalyst to actualize the best you have within you. Don't be a grave robber. Let your memories rest in peace.

New Hope's pastor retires, names successor

NEWARK—In an important move to prepare for his succession, Reverend Dr. Charles E. Thomas announced plans for his retirement in the year 2000 at the annual meeting of The New Hope Baptist Church in Newark. During the meeting, Reverend Joe A. Carter was named co-pastor. He and Reverend Thomas will share the responsibility of pastoring New Hope, one of the city's largest African America churches, over the next three years.

"Reverend Joe Carter is the person to lead this great church into the next millennium," said Reverend Thomas. "I will be able to retire knowing that New Hope's belief in God's power and its commitment to community service continues for generations to come."

Reverend Charles E. Thomas began his pastoring of New Hope Baptist Church in August 1968. Under his leadership, a Day Care Center was formed in 1972 and continues to render year-round services for 60 children a day. Pastor Thomas also administered the development of the Minority Contractors and Craftsmen Trade Association and the New Hope Skills Centers, and organized the New Hope Development Corporation which constructed New Hope Village, a 170-family housing complex in Newark. He is active in the Progressive Baptist Convention and served as its president and vice president. Currently, Pastor Thomas is on the planning board. He is slated to his appointment as co-pastor, Rev. Joe Carter, a native of Oklahoma, served as assistant pastor of New Hope. During his four year tenure, and as a Sunday evening service focused on teaching the gospel to youngsters.

Black Church project expands to new location

WASHINGTON—The Philanthropy and the Black Church Project has become an initiative of the Southern Education Foundation. Originally part of the Council on Foundations' program on religious philanthropy, the project is designed to foster conversation and collaboration among foundations as sources of grantmaking funds and black religious institutions.

"Historically, black churches have provided social services to meet a broad array of needs in many communities," Council on Foundations President Dorothy S. Ridings said. "The Philanthropy and the Black Church Project has been tremendously successful in bringing grantmakers and church leaders together to explore the ways in which their work can achieve their mutual goals."

The Black Church Project received special funding to incorporate outreach from the Ford Foundation and the Lilly Endowment in 1991. Since then with the added support of the Kellogg Foundation, the project has engaged African-American church and philanthropic leaders across the country to learn about and from each other and build good collaborative relationships.

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* Source: League of Women Voters 6/97

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Arts Weeeknesday

City News B4

December 17-December 23, 1997

Billboard

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

NEW YORK—James Williams on piano and Peter Washington on Bass will perform at Zimno's Bar and Restaurant. For more info, call 212-924-5182.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

NEWARK—Donald Byrd's "The Harlem Nutcracker" will be performed at The New Jersey Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. For more info, call 973-297-5834.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

PARAMUS—SingleFaces Dance Party will be held at 9 p.m. at the Radisson Paramus. For more info, call 732-462-2408 and call 201-262-6900 for directions.

EAST BRUNSWICK—SingleFaces Dance Party will be held at 9 p.m. at the Brunswick Hilton and Towers. For more info, call 732-462-2406.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

NEW YORK—Benny Powell on Trombone, Jane Jarvis on piano and Earl May on bass will perform through the 23rd at Zimno's Bar and Restaurant. For more info, call 212-924-5182.

CHERRY HILL—Brian Pastor Orchestra will perform at the Hilton Hotel from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. For more info, call 609-665-6666.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

NEWARK—American Ballet Theatre to perform the classic, *Cinderella* at New Jersey Performing Arts Center at 8:00 p.m. For more info, call 973-297-5834.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

NEWARK—Donald Byrd Theatre to perform the classic, *Cinderella* at New Jersey Performing Arts Center at 8:00 p.m. For more info, call 973-297-5834.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

NEW YORK, NY—The Forces of Nature Dance Company, celebrates Kwanzaa and its seven principles of Nguzo Saba at 7:30 p.m. For more info, call 212-650-7148.

NEW YORK—Benny Powell on Trombone, Jane Jarvis on piano and Earl May on bass will perform through the 27th at Zimno's Bar and Restaurant. For more info, call 212-924-5182.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

JERSEY CITY—Kwanzaa celebration will be held 8 p.m. at the Miller Branch Library (Cultural Arts Center). For more info, call 547-4605.

NEW YORK, NY—The Forces of Nature Dance Company, celebrates Kwanzaa and its seven principles of Nguzo Saba at 7:30 p.m. For more info, call 212-650-7148.

Art with a Message: The Works of Donald Byrd



Donald Byrd
By J.L.R. III

"My company, and my work with other companies, has allowed me to create works which make a social comment and observation."
—Donald Byrd

With over eighty works for some of the most prestigious and highly acclaimed dance companies of the world, choreographer Donald Byrd has truly explored new territories in movement. Through his critically acclaimed dance vocabulary, he continually redefines the way artists, audiences, and communities interact and communicate about common issues. "I have become more aware of the role that art can play in the community: strengthening, healing, and problem solving," said Mr. Byrd in a recent interview, and through such major works as *The Minstrel Show*, *Life Situations*, *Daydreams on Guelles*, and *The Bears*, he continues to make an impact on today's artistic and social landscape.

The recent World Premiere of *Fin de Siecle* being performed by the Alvin Ailey Company during their current New York City Center season, confronts the audience with issues of cultural identity at the end of the millennium. The piece opens and closes with a female solo, in which the dancer, moving to the frenetic, disconcerting music of Mito Morales, fights her way out of the trappings of her existence. Later, two couples move in separate duets, appearing as icons out of place with their reality; touching and sensual, yet emotionless. Another group of dancers weave in and out of these movements, seemingly unaffected by the discontent of the "civilized" dancers around them.

The Harlem Nutcracker, one of Mr. Byrd's most famous works in performance this weekend at NYPCC is, in Mr. Byrd's words, "a big part of the social agenda that I have." *The Harlem Nutcracker* is about family values... and the fact that African Americans have a very particular view about family values and community." Arranged by former Ellington orchestra member David Berger, *The Harlem Nutcracker* weaves together the music of Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn, and Tchaikovsky. Additional music draws on contemporary urban music, and gospel.

Through his work, Donald Byrd seeks balance: of thought, of movement, and of content. "African American people are an embodiment of jazz, a combination of African and European cultures which has created a new, different people." The exploration of the qualities and nuances of these changes, and the results, is what Donald Byrd's work is all about.

IN REVIEW: Ailey Takes New York in Groundbreaking City Center Season

By J.L.R. III

While many believe that dance is for dancers, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre has reaffirmed the vision of its creator, that dance is for everyone. To prove that point, the Company has once again redefined the boundaries of human movement, reclaimed the spirit of the dance, and brought audience members to their feet, after time, after time.

In the current season, The Company includes two new World Premieres and several new Company productions. One of the World Premieres, Donald Byrd's *Fin de Siecle*, is clearly on its way to critical acclaim. Known worldwide for his creative force in revealing social truths through dance, Mr. Byrd raises questions, of the obsolescence of certain roles and caricatures in our society as we approach the end of the twentieth century.

The new production of *Bad Blood* has once again established the late Ulysses Dove as one of the hottest choreographers of this generation. First created in 1984 for Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal, and restaged this year by Ailey Associate Artistic Director Masuzumi Chaya, *Bad Blood* plays on the combustible nature between the sexes, using the music of artists Laurie Anderson and Peter Gabriel. Of special note is the brilliant solo performance of Mr. Matthew Rushing, who, in only his fifth year with the Company, is someone to be watched.

Of course the signature piece *Revelations* brought audiences to their feet, as Mr. Ailey's masterpiece once again showed us the depth of this Company's creative spirit. One of the most outstanding pieces of this season's repertoire is *Hymn*, suitably choreographed by Ailey Artistic Director Judith Jamison, supported by the masterful text of Anna Devorah Smith, and the pulsating music of Robert Ruggieri. This piece is destined to be a seminal work of the Ailey Company, and a fitting tribute to Alvin Ailey, his dancers, and the worldwide audience with whom he shared his most precious gift.

Quite simply, the Ailey Company is one of the greatest American arts institutions of the modern era. Until the end of the month, City Center is the hottest spot in the universe, and at the core of it all is the passion of the Ailey dancer.



Donald Byrd's *Fin de Siecle* performed by Linda Caceres and Don Bellamy members of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre

Amistad: The story and the production



Oil painting of Cinque, leader of the uprising aboard Le Amistad. The portrait was painted by Nathaniel Jocelyn in 1840. Credit: New Haven Historical Colony Society

LOS ANGELES—Based on a true story, the newly-released movie *Amistad* is the saga of a failed mutiny on board a Spanish slave ship and the dramatic trial that followed. In the summer of 1839, fifty-three African captives, led by Cinque, played by Djimon Hounsou, broke free and took over the slave ship *Amistad*. Captured off the eastern seaboard after falling in a desperate attempt to sail home, they found themselves strangers in a strange land and at the mercy of the American justice system.

Fighting for the Africans are abolitionist Theodore Tilton, played by Morgan Freeman and young lawyer Roger Baldwin played by Matthew McConaughey. However, seeking re-election, President Martin Van Buren, played by Nigel Hawthorne is willing to sacrifice the Africans to appease the pro-slavery South. The case takes on historic proportions when former President John Quincy Adams, played by Anthony Hopkins comes out of retirement to take the Africans' case the very foundation of the American legal system.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Under the direction of Steven Spielberg, principal photography on *Amistad* began in February of 1997 in Los Angeles. After two weeks on soundstages, the production relocated to the wintry coast of New England for four weeks of location shooting.

The city of Newport, Rhode Island provided locales for much of the East Coast filming. The filmmakers chose an area known as Washington Square, flanked at its north end by the 258-year-old Colony House, with the historic White Horse Tavern, the nation's oldest

eating establishment, just down the block. The three-story Colony House, which once served as Rhode Island's State House, became the setting for several of the story's key courtroom sequences. Filming also took place at the nearby Trinity Church, built in 1726, where George Washington himself once worshipped.

Led by production designer Rick Carter, the *Amistad* art department had the task of transforming the bustling downtown square into a 19th century New Haven street. In addition to camouflaging contemporary storefronts, and removing street lights, parking meters and other signs of modern times, the team had to cover the concrete and asphalt in the area with over 10,000 cubic feet of dirt.

The Supreme Court sequences, where John Quincy Adams delivers his impassioned argument on behalf of the Africans, were filmed on a set erected at the newly expanded stages at the Sonalysts Studios in Waterford, Connecticut. Filming was also accomplished in the current Rhode Island State House in Providence, as well as in the Massachusetts State House in Boston. Myrtle Seaport, the country's leading maritime museum, located in Mystic, Connecticut, supplied the perfect setting for recreating New Haven's harbor and waterfront.

For the challenging scenes aboard the slave ship *Amistad*, the production utilized two different historic schooners: Maryland's state ship, The *Pride of Baltimore*, on the East Coast; and California's state ship, The *Californian*, off the coast of Los Angeles. Both ships were painted and redressed to mirror the *Amistad*. Finally, Puerto Rico provided the backdrop for the scenes set in Cuba and West Africa.

AHN broadcasts for the Month of December Christmas Lilies of the Field



In *Christmas Lilies of the Field*, Billy Dee Williams (left) stars as Homer Smith, a drifter who unexpectedly helps Marie Schell (right, Mother Marie), an Austrian nun, build a facility to serve as a shelter for some orphans. *Christmas Lilies of the Field* airs 12/23/97 at 12:35 a.m.

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Assisted Legal Notice

PART I - INVITATION FOR BIDS

CONTRACT #C2-97-01
WOODLAND AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1B
BETWEEN MARLBOROUGH AVENUE AND SO.
PLAINFIELD CITY LINE

The City of Plainfield will receive sealed bids for Woodland Avenue Improvements Phase 1B between Marlborough Avenue and So. Plainfield City Line, all as shown on drawings and detailed in these specifications, until 2:30 P.M. Previews shall be held on December 23, 1997, at the City Hall Annex, Conference Room, and Floor, 515 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey 07061, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids submitted prior to the closing date and time shall be submitted to the City Clerk, City of Plainfield, 515 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07061. Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "32a. Contract C2-97-01 Woodland Avenue Improvements - Phase 1B between Marlborough Avenue and So. Plainfield City Line." Bids received after the closing date and time shall be returned to the bidder unopened.

Bids are invited for all supervision, labor, materials, equipment, delivery, and services concerning the reconstruction of the existing street and related improvements. All improvements are as shown on the drawings entitled Woodland Avenue Improvements Phase 1B between Marlborough Avenue and So. Plainfield City Line, and as detailed in the construction specifications.

The above contract shall be performed in strict accordance with the contract documents including any drawings and technical specifications which are on file in the Engineering Division office at 515 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey 07061. All workmanship and materials shall be in accordance with the current New Jersey Department of Transportation Standard specifications for road and bridge construction, as amended and in accordance with the construction standards of the City of Plainfield.

A copy of the contract documents may be obtained without charge by the prospective bidder from the City Clerk, NJ 07013, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of seventy-five (\$75.00) payment shall be in the form of a certified check, payable to the Entech Partnership, 1033 Clifton Avenue, Clifton, NJ 07013, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of seventy-five (\$75.00) payment shall be in the form of a check, or bank draft, payable to The Entech Partnership.

A certified check or bank draft payable to the order of the City of Plainfield, negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (at par value), or a negotiable bill of material sold by the bidder in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the total bid, but not to exceed twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) shall be submitted with each bid.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the contract documents must be paid on this project and that employees and applicants for employment are not to be discriminated against because of their race, color, religion or national origin.

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, Chapter 127 as well as the affirmative action requirements of the City of Plainfield. Such requirements are included in the bid documents.

The City of Plainfield reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive defects or irregularities in bids, or to modify any bid as it shall deem for the best interest of the City of Plainfield, New Jersey. Furthermore, the City of Plainfield shall be subject to approval by the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

Bids may be held by the City for a period not to exceed sixty (60) calendar days from the date of opening of the bids for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of the bidders prior to awarding of the contract.

Karl S. Patel, Director
Engineering Division
City of Plainfield, NJ

\$168.50

INVITATION FOR BID

The Housing Authority of the City of Elizabeth will receive sealed bids for:

FIRE ALARM SERVICE AND REPAIR AT ALL SITES

The bid opening will be held at 10:00 a.m. (previews are required) WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1998, in the Conference Room of the HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF ELIZABETH, 608 LATE AVE. BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Bidding documents, including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Administrative Office, 608 Maple Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. A non-refundable payment of \$50.00 will be required to pick up the plans and specifications. NO PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS WILL BE MAILED.

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF ELIZABETH

ELIZABETH reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities in bids.
Bids will be awarded only to the corporation or other entity under whose name qualifications, pre-qualifications (where provided by the HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF ELIZABETH and applicable) and other information are submitted. Corporate affidavits, subsidiary or parent corporation or related entities are not automatically qualified.

Firms choosing to submit their bids via the "United States" mail are required to have said mail delivered prior to December 23, 1997, at the City Hall Annex. Consideration must be given to allow for weekends and holidays.

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF ELIZABETH will only accept original and originally executed bidding documents (including but not limited to the Bid Affidavit; Qualification Certificates; Statement of Ownership; Statement of Compliance; Bid Bond; Certificate as to Corporate Principal; HUD Directive; and Affirmative Action).

Photocopies and/or teletype copies of such documents will not be accepted in lieu of originals.
The provisions of Affirmative Action Program (AAP) and Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) are incorporated into all requirements of the contract. Bids may not be obtained with the bid documents.

No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days without written consent of the Housing Authority. The Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

All sealed bids must be submitted to the Housing Authority of the City of Elizabeth, Attention: Howard, Bruce, 608 Maple Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07061 no later than 10:00 a.m. prevailing time on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1998.
All Bids (THREE PER BIDDER) shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope and properly marked bearing the name of the bidder and marked:

FIRE ALARM SERVICE AND REPAIR AT ALL SITES

Any questions pertaining to this bid must be directed to Al Esposito (908) 965-2418.

William D. Jones, Executive Director \$168.00

RFP ANNOUNCEMENT

New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services, Notice of Availability of Funds - Child Protection Substantive Abuse Initiative. Take notice that the Division of Youth and Family Services is requesting proposals from public or private (for-profit or not-for-profit) social service or substance abuse treatment agencies or consultants of such agencies to provide substance abuse case management support services to the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services. Notice of it will be published on or about December 15, 1997 in the New Jersey Register. Copies of the Request for Proposals may be obtained by contacting:

For: Pasquale County, Bergen County, Morris County, Sussex County, Warren County and Hudson County contact:

Stephen Jung, Regional Planner
Northern Regional Office
Division of Youth and Family Services
100 Hamilton Place
7th Floor, Room 710
Paterson, NJ 07659
(973) 977-4000

For: Essex County, Middlesex County and Union County contact:

Joseph Malowski, Regional Planner
Metropolitan Regional Office
Division of Youth and Family Services
153 Halcyon Street
Newark, NJ 07101
(973) 648-4100

For: Ocean County, Somerset County, Burlington County, Monmouth County and Mercer County contact:

Deanne Kozicki, Regional Planner
DYS Central Regional Office
Division of Youth and Family Services
Capital Center
90 East State Street, 5th Floor
PO Box 717
Trenton, NJ 08655-0717
(609) 777-2002

For: Atlantic County, Cape May County, Burlington County, Gloucester County, and

Cumberland County, Salem County, and Camden County contact:
John Ludewig, Regional Planner
DYS Southern Regional Office
Southern Regional Office
Division of Youth and Family Services
392 North White Horse Pike
PO Box 894
Hammonton, NJ 08063
(609) 551-0010

Copies of the Request for Proposals may also be obtained by attending the mandatory bidders' conference.

Date: Tuesday, January 6, 1998
Time: 9:00 A.M.
Location: Department of Labor
John Flota Plaza
New Warren Street
Trenton, New Jersey
\$171.60

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR LEGAL COUNSEL

Request for Proposals for Legal Counsel for a two year period commencing February 19, 1998 to February 19, 2000.

The Housing Authority of the City of Plainfield requests proposals for attorney/firm to serve as legal counsel to the Authority for the programs outlined in the Request for Proposals for a twenty four month period ending February 19, 2000. Proposals should address the following qualification factors which shall be used to evaluate proposals and include the proposal form.

1. Experience with Housing Authority of HUD legal work or real estate law. 35 pts.
2. Knowledge of and/or experience with HUD Public Housing Regulations and Procedures. 25 pts.
3. Experience with State Public Agencies Law, in particular Local Public Contracts Law. 10 pts.
4. Price. 10 pts.
5. State Housing Code and Landmark Tenancy Law. 10 pts.

6. Affirmative Action 15 pts. Demonstrated compliance with requirements P.L. 1975, c. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27), An Affirmative Action Plan is to be submitted as part of the proposal. Contractor is required to demonstrate record, ability and goals to make good faith affirmative action efforts.

Persons interested in submitting a proposal should contact the Housing Authority of the City of Plainfield at (908) 769-6335, Ext. 600.

Proposals must be submitted to the address below and must be received on or before December 23, 1997 no later than 4:30 p.m., in the attached format. The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or to waive any irregularities in the proposal process.

ATTENTION: MBE'S AND WBE'S

The New Jersey Highway Authority (Garden State Parkway) is interested in doing business with Certified Minority Owned and Women Owned Businesses. We are located in Woodbridge, New Jersey and operate the Garden State Parkway As an independent Authority we are a governmental entity subject to public bidding statutes. We maintain bidder's lists for a wide variety of products and services.

While we invite you to register with our office regardless of the size of your business, at the present time we are actively seeking suppliers who can furnish the following:

- Building Maintenance Equipment and Supplies
- Communications Equipment and Supplies
- Clothing and Uniforms
- Data Processing Equipment and Supplies
- Capital Center
- Fuel and Fuel Products
- Household Equipment and Supplies
- Janitorial Equipment and Supplies
- Landscape and Nursery/Supplies
- Mechanical, Safety Equipment and Supplies

Measuring Instruments
Office Equipment and Supplies
Photocopying Equipment and Supplies
Roadway Maintenance Equipment and Supplies
Roadway Maintenance Materials
Vehicular Equipment, Supplies and Parts

If you are interested in doing business with us and would like to receive a Vendor Registration Package, please contact our office at 723-442-8600, x 6322 or write to the New Jersey Highway Authority, P.O. Box 5030, Woodbridge, NJ 07095. Attention: Angelia Corio. \$93.50

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

NOTICE is hereby given that the Housing Authority of the City of Salem will receive sealed bids for Garbage and Trash Removal Services in accordance with Specifications which may be obtained from the Housing Authority of the City of Salem, 205 Seventh Street, Salem, NJ, during business hours 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays.

Each bid proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Garbage and Trash Removal Services Bid" in the lower left hand corner. All bid proposals will be received in the Housing Authority Office on or before 10:00 a.m. on January 6, 1998.

The Housing Authority of the City of Salem reserves the right to reject any or all bids as may be deemed in the best interest of said Housing Authority and waive inconsequential irregularities in bids. Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127 (Affirmative Action) and with the provisions of P.L. 1977, c. 33 (Discrimination of Overweight).

By order of the Housing Authority of the City of Salem.

Ruth O. Gross,
Executive Director
\$55.90

ADVERTISEMENT

The Housing Authority of the City of Salem is hereby giving notice that it will accept sealed bids for the purchase of a new 1998 State Police vehicle. Specifications and Bid Proposal Forms are on file at the Housing Authority of the City of Salem, 205 Seventh Street, Salem, New Jersey and may be obtained commencing December 9, 1997. Proposals must be received no later than December 23, 1997 by 10:00 a.m. at the Housing Authority of the City of Salem Office at 205 Seventh Street, Salem New Jersey 08079 at which time they will be opened and publicly read aloud. The Housing Authority of the City of Salem reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or to waive any irregularities in the proposal.

Bids must be enclosed in sealed envelope bearing the name and address of the Bidder and the name of the project clearly marked "Proposal for Purchase of one Security Patrol Vehicle." Attention: Ruth O. Gross, Executive Director.

Carlynn A. Ridge, Executive Director \$49.40

501 East Front Street
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

\$103.20

PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY ATTORNEY

The Housing Authority of the City of Salem is seeking proposals from attorneys/firm to serve as legal counsel to the Authority. Proposals should be written to address the following qualification factors which shall be used by the Authority to evaluate proposals:

1. Experience as Housing Authority Counsel.
2. Knowledge of and experience with Federal HUD Public Housing Regulations and Procedures.
3. Experience with Federal and State Public Agencies Law, in particular Local Public Contracts Law.

The contract period will be for one (1) year.
Information packages will be available to all interested parties from the Housing Authority Office. Proposals must be submitted to the address below and must be received no later than Tuesday, January 6, 1998 at 2:00 p.m.

Ruth O. Gross, PHM, Executive Director
Housing Authority of the City of Salem
205 Seventh Street
Salem, NJ 08079
(609) 593-5022
\$61.10

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR COMMERCIAL INSURANCE

The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) is seeking proposals from qualified respondents to provide commercial insurance services for CRDA, located at 1014 Atlantic Avenue, Atlantic City, NJ 08401. By way of this Request for Proposals (RFP), the CRDA is seeking to retain an Insurance Agent to provide commercial insurance services for a 12 month period commencing February 1, 1998.

If awarded a contract, your company will be required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27) (Law against Discrimination in Public Contracts).

A mandatory Pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, December 18, 1997 at 10:00 a.m. at the CRDA offices, 1014 Atlantic Avenue, Atlantic City, NJ. RFPs will be provided until the Pre-bid Conference. Proposals must be received by CRDA no later than Friday, January 9, 1998 at 4:00 p.m.

Should you have any questions, please contact:

Katy Dickels, Office Manager
Casino Reinvestment Development Authority
1014 Atlantic Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
(609) 347-5000
\$69.90

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PUBLIC RELATIONS MARKETING AND ADVERTISING SERVICES

The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) is seeking proposals from qualified firms specializing in public relations, marketing and advertising. If awarded this contract, your firm will be required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27) (Law against discrimination in public contracts).

Copies of the Request for Proposals (RFP) may be picked up at CRDA offices. No RFPs will be mailed by CRDA.

Proposals will be required to be received by CRDA no later than 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, January 7, 1998. No "last" proposals will be accepted.

Questions are to be directed to:

Yvonne Doggett
Casino Reinvestment Development Authority
1014 Atlantic Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
(609) 347-0050
\$59.80

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE CITY OF EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY
SEEKS QUALIFIED DEVELOPERS

THE BRICK CHURCH REDEVELOPMENT AREA

The City of East Orange Redevelopment Agency (EDORA) is seeking qualified respondents to undertake a MAJOR USE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT within the BRICK CHURCH URBAN RENEWAL AREA. The defined redevelopment area covers approximately 9.2 acres in the heart of downtown East Orange, Essex County, New Jersey. Requests for Proposal (RFP) packages will be made available commencing December 9, 1997. Copies of the Request and pertinent data may be obtained Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the office of the City Department of Policy, Planning & Development, Division of Economic Development, 260 CARTON AVE., 2ND FLOOR, East Orange, NJ 07015, or by mail upon written requests thereunto. Responses to this Request for Proposals must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., February 27, 1998 pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth herein. All interested parties with specific inquiries are invited to telephone or write to Joseph L. Donald, Project Coordinator, Division of Economic Development, at the aforementioned address. Telephone (973) 295-0095.

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ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR/AQUATICS MANAGER OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

The Township of Monmouth, an EOE, is seeking a full-time Activities Director/aquatics Manager to plan, schedule, supervise and direct major recreational activities, organize various requests, manage per-site fees, and to perform other related duties as required. Candidate must have a degree in recreation or 5 years experience in the field of recreation; a N.J. drivers license; and a Certified Pool Operator certificate or willing to take the course. Salary Range \$37,541.00 - \$49,980.00. Hours are Mon-Fri 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. Some evening and weekend hours required. Apply Township of Monmouth, Human Resources Office, 205 Calmar Avenue, Monmouth, NJ 07042. Closing date Monday, January 5, 1998.

Graphic Designer

Must know QuarkXPress and Photoshop on PC or MAC platforms and have two years experience working with Newspaper layout.

Send resume to:

City News Personnel
PO Box 1774, Plainfield, NJ 07060

HELP WANTED

Need extra money? Want to let people know what's going on in your area? Can you write? Do you like to take pictures?

City News wants you on its editorial team.

Freelance positions in all areas, including Newark, East Orange, Plainfield, Elizabeth, Hillside, Haddonfield, Englewood, Montclair, New Brunswick, Asbury Park, Ocean, Red Bank, Paterson are open.

Send a resume and a writing sample and a list of 10 story ideas you would like to write about or photograph to: City News Personnel, PO Box 1774, Plainfield, NJ 07060.

*Photographer**

Freelance photographers wanted to cover events throughout New Jersey. Reimbursement for travel expenses. Must be responsible. Developing not necessary. We supply film. Willing to work with new photographers.

Send resume and preferred work hours to:

City News Personnel
PO Box 1774, Plainfield, NJ 07060.

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DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

Teacher, educator wanted

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